Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 OIC-04 INRE-00 /150 W ------ 066315

P R 152222 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6815 INFO PAN CANAL USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, UNSC, PQ

SUBJ: SC MEETING - CANAL ZONE TOUR

REF: PANAMA 1337.

- 1) BEGIN SUMMARY: CANAL TOUR FOR UN DELEGATES WENT OFF ON SCHEDULE AND WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.
- 2) AMBASSADOR SCALI AND I WITH OTHER MEMBERS USUNDEL AND GOVERNOR PARKER REVIEWED BIDDING ON CANAL TOUR EVENING OF MARCH 13. WE DECIDED WE SHOULD ACCEPT PANAMANIAN PLAN ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDERED IT LESS THAN SATISFACTORY. PANAMA HELD UPPER HAND AS HOST, OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE CRITICIZED US AS PETTY, AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT ON OPENING DAY.
- 3) I HAD SPOKEN TO BOTH TACK AND BOYD AT AIRPORT AT SAME TIME SCALI ARRIVING AND TOLD THEM WE WERE HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THEIR PROPOSAL. I SAID SOME 50 OR 60 CARS GOING TO MIRAFLORES CREATED PROBLEMS INCLUDING SECURITY RISKS. BUT THAT KEY PROBLEM WAS THAT WE WERE NOW UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT PANAMA WANTED US TO DO. TACK AND BOYD PROMPTLY ILLUSTRATED MY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT WHEN TACK SAID WE WERE TO PROVIDE LUNCH AND BOYD SAID WE WERE NOT.

- 4) AFTER MEETING WITH SCALI I TRIED TO REACH TACK AT VARIOUS NUMBERS HE HAD GIVEN ME TO TELL HIM WE WOULD PROCEED AS HE PROPOSED AND ASK HIM HOW HE PLANNED TO NOTIFY SC MEMBERS SINCE GOP OFFICIAL PROGRAM DID NOT INCLUDE VISIT TO MIRAFLORES LOCKS, ETC. TACK FAILED TO RETURN ANY CALLS. PANAMANIAN GAME PLAN APPEARED TO BE NOT TO TELL UN DELEGATES, CANCEL US PART OF VISIT, AND THEN CLAIM IT HAD TO BE CANCELED BECAUSE U. S. WOULD NOT AGREE. TO AVOID THIS POSSIBILITY WE DELIVERED LETTERS FROM AMB. SCALI ANNOUNCING BRIEFING AND TOUR TO ROOMS OF 57 HEADS OF DELEGATION, FONMINS, ETC., AT 2:00 A. M. THURSDAY. THEN SHORTLY AFTER OPENING OF BUSINESS I SENT NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER QUOTING HIS PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTING IT. AT ABOUT SAME TIME WE LEARNED FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL HAD TOLD UN SECURITY CHIEF THAT U. S. PART OF TOUR HAD BEEN CANCELLED.
- 5) IN MEANTIME AMBASSADOR SCALI HAD GIVEN COPY MY NOTE TO BOYD AND INSISTED BOYD HAD OBLIGATION INFORM OTHER DELEGATES THAT BRIEFING AND TOUR OF MIRAFLORES WAS PART OF PROGRAM. BOYD AGREED AND BEGAN CONFIRMING TO DELEGATES SCALI'S LETTER TO THEM.
- 6) BY NOON EVERYTHING WAS BACK ON TRACK. SOME 200 PERSONS WENT TO MIRAFLORES AS OPPOSED TO 40 OR 50 EXPECTED. BECAUSE OF CONFUSION IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER FEW DELEGATES THAT DID NOT GO TO MIRAFLORES (CHINESE FOR EXAMPLE) FAILED TO BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT TOLD BY BOYD OR DECIDED ON THEIR OWN NOT TO ATTEND.
- 7) BETWEEN 500 AND 600 MADE TRIP ON FIESTA WHICH AS
 RESULT WAS LATE LEAVING BALBOA. OUR DECISION TO PROVIDE
 LUNCH ON USS ATLAS AT MIRAFLORES, EVEN THOUGH GOP DID NOT
 WANT IT, PROVED SOUND AND EVEN BOYD AND TACK WHO WENT TO
 MIRAFLORES DECIDED TO EAT AND NOT WAIT FOR FIESTA. WHEN,
 HOWEVER, FIESTA ARRIVED AT MIRAFLORES, SECRETARY GENERAL
 WALDHEIM, TACK AND BOYD BOARDED AND COMPLETED TRIP TO
 PEDRO MIGUEL ABOARD VESSEL. PANAMANIANS SENT THEIR OWN
 CARS AND BUSES TO PICK UP OVERFLOW CROWD AT PEDRO MIGUEL
 AND DID NOT USE TRAIN AND BUSES MADE AVAILABLE BY CANAL COMPANY.

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8) A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY PARTICIPATING DELGATES BUT

SOME DREW UNFAVORABLE CONTRAST BETWEEN EFFICIENTLY RUN
U. S. BRIEFING AND PLEASURE CRUISE PROVIDED BY GOP.
PROBLEM THREATENED TO ARISE WHEN UN DELEGATES AT
MIRAFLORES, INCLUDING AMB. BOYD, BEGAN TO GET RESTLESS
AND CONCERNED ABOUT RETURNING TO PANAMA CITY. IN RESPONSE
TO THIS SITUATION U. S. DEL REACHED AGREEMENT WITH BOYD
AND TACK THAT DELEGATES WHO DESIRED TO REUTRN TO
PANAMA CITY DIRECTLY FROM MIRAFLORES WOULD BOARD FIESTA
FOR A DRINK AND THEN DEBARK. MOST PERM REPS STAYED ABOARD
FIESTA FOR SHORT RUN TO PEDRO MIGUEL AND RETURNED FOR AFTERNOON
SC SESSION RESCHEDULED FOR 1730.
SAYRE

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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